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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/707,375	12/09/2003	Yakup J. Igval	F-628	1374
919	7590	10/05/2005	EXAMINER	
PITNEY BOWES INC. 35 WATERVIEW DRIVE P.O. BOX 3000 MSC 26-22 SHELTON, CT 06484-8000			FUREMAN, JARED	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2876	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/707,375

Applicant(s)

IGVAL ET AL.

Examiner

Jared J. Fureman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of the IDS, on 9/23/2005, which has been entered in the file. Claims 1-19 are pending.

Claim Objections

1. Claims 2, 3, 13, and 16-18 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 2, line 2: "number" should be replaced with --identifier--, in order to avoid a lack of proper antecedent basis for "the postal tracking number". Note that claim 1 recites "postal tracking identifier".

Claim 3, line 2: "number" should be replaced with --identifier--, in order to avoid a lack of proper antecedent basis for "the postal tracking number". Note that claim 1 recites "postal tracking identifier".

Claim 13, line 2: "number" should be replaced with --identifier--, in order to avoid a lack of proper antecedent basis for "the postal tracking number". Note that claim 6 recites "postal tracking identifier".

Claim 16, line 14: "number" should be replaced with --identifier--, in order to avoid a lack of proper antecedent basis for "the postal tracking number". Note that claim 16, line 3, recites "postal tracking identifier".

Claim 17, line 2: "number" should be replaced with --identifier--, in order to avoid a lack of proper antecedent basis for "the postal tracking number". Note that claim 16, line 3, recites "postal tracking identifier".

Claim 18, line 2: "number" should be replaced with --identifier--, in order to avoid a lack of proper antecedent basis for "the postal tracking number". Note that claim 16, line 3, recites "postal tracking identifier".

Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-19 have been allowed over the prior art of record, but require correction of the claim objections noted above.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest a method for tracking checks comprising: (re claim 1) associating the postal tracking data with the check tracking data; (re claim 6) associating the mail piece tracking information with the check processing information; (re claim 16) associating the postal tracking data with the check tracking data; in combination with the other claimed limitations as set forth in the claims.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest a method for tracking checks comprising: (re claim 1) associating the postal tracking data with the check tracking data; (re claim 6) associating the mail piece tracking information with the check processing information; (re claim 16) associating the postal tracking data with the check tracking data; in combination with the other claimed limitations as set forth in the claims.

Opiela et al (US 2002/0120562 A1) teaches associating postal tracking data with a money order identifier (see figure 3), however Opiela et al distinguishes between checks and money orders (see paragraph 5) and therefore teaches away from the use of checks.

Postal tracking methods and check tracking methods were known to those of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention (see the background of the invention, paragraphs 2-8, of applicant's specification). However, the prior art does not teach or suggest associating postal tracking data with check tracking/processing data. Therefore, without the benefit of applicant's teachings, there is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the prior art in a manner so as to create the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Pickering, Jr et al (US 6,557,755 B1), Castelluzzo (US 2004/0186802 A1), Bodie et al (US 2003/0055791 A1), Gelfer (US 2002/0046194 A1), Stephens et al (US 5,237,159), Hoffman et al (US 6,564,996), Bailey et al (US 2005/0209976 A1) and Burgess (US 2004/0031846 A1) all teach postal or check tracking systems and methods.

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6. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

The claim objections noted above.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jared J. Fureman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2391. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 4:30 PM M-T, and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jared J. Fureman
Jared J. Fureman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2876

October 2, 2005